First ISO14001-certified Indian municipality

Namakkal municipality, Tamil Nadu, India, received ISO14001:2004 certification on 23 March from TUV, the worldwide accreditation agency, for establishing and applying an environmental management system for the "Provision and Maintenance of Water Supply, Solid Waste/Sewage Management, Town Planning, Lighting, and Other Social Services." The municipality has been working toward becoming a model eco-city through a Green Productivity project sponsored by the APO under the technical guidance and supervision of experts from the National Productivity Council, India.

Namakkal is the only town nationwide where waste is segregated when collected and then processed and sent for disposal. In addition to the solid waste management system, Namakkal municipality has introduced energy conservation measures like an automatic luminous cut-off system for street lights, employment generation for women through mushroom cultivation training, pond beautification at the foot of Tippu Sultan Fort, development of an eco-park and children's park utilizing waste material, and enhancing the productivity of municipal administration by integrating geographic information and management information systems.

Namakkal municipal employees with ISO14001:2004 certificate

This marked the first ISO14001 certification of an Indian municipality. It was achieved with the commitment of the municipal chairman, commissioner, and councilors and support from the general public. It is hoped that more cities in India and the Asia-Pacific region will follow the eco-city model of Namakkal.